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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Gerrit Klaerner et al.  
Serial No. 09/911,683  
Filed July 24, 2001  
Confirmation No. 4375

Art Unit 1641

For POLYMER BRUSHES FOR IMMOBILIZING MOLECULES TO A SURFACE  
AND HAVE WATER-SOLUBLE OR WATER-DISPERSIBLE SEGMENTS  
THEREIN AND PROBES BONDED THERETO

Examiner Mary Ceperley

February 28, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A AND  
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

In response to the Office action mailed January 31, 2003, Applicants submit the following Preliminary Amendment A and Response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**

Please amend the above referenced application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-16.

Please substitute the following for claim 17:

17. (amended) A method of preparing a sensor for detecting a biological molecule in an aqueous sample, the method comprising:

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